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Statement submitted by World Family Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

No Family Left Behind: Families and Local Authorities working together to transform cities and human settlements into inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable with strong communities

Humankind has achieved unprecedented social and economic progress over the past several decades. However, the progress has been uneven. Everywhere some individuals and groups confront barriers that prevent them from fully participating in economic, social and political life, leaving them behind. The focus of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the core aspiration of the World Family Summit 2017 is to highlight the inclusion of the family in the process of development with No Family Left Behind.

By 2050, the world's urban population is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the twenty-first century's most transformative trends. Populations, economic activities, social and cultural interactions, as well as environmental and humanitarian impacts, are increasingly concentrated in cities, and this poses to governments and to families massive sustainability challenges in terms of housing, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent jobs, safety and natural resources, among others.

The World Family Organization in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the CIFAL Global Network, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development, the United Nations ECOSOC Office for Support and Coordination, the United Nations NGO Branch, the United Arab Emirates Family Development Foundation, governments and civil society members numbering 167 participants from 72 countries gathered in the World Family Summit 2017, 14–15 December in the Emirates Hall at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, working on the theme: No Family Left Behind: Families and Local Authorities working together to transform cities and human settlements into inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable with strong communities, Leaving No Family Behind.

In Celebration of the World Family Organization 70th Anniversary, the focus of the World Family Summit 2017 was on the New Urban Agenda, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development specifically Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", and SDG 12 "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns" emphasizing that its implementation at the local level and in the family is an exceptional opportunity to achieve better integration between communities' needs and family-friendly public policy development, leading to a renewed hope, harmony, social coherence and economic growth, while ensuring inclusion and sustainability.

The World Family Summit 2017 successfully concluded its agenda and participants unanimously approved the Geneva Declaration which recommends the consideration of the following family-related issues as the main topics for mainstreaming actions at national, regional and especially at local levels:

- Integrate family focused perspective into the implementation of SDG11 and SDG12 to ensure that policy making and service delivery are family cantered.
- Promote implementation of the New Urban Agenda approved by member states at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) n Quito in October 2016 that reaffirms the global commitment to sustainable urban development as a critical step for realizing and

localizing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in an integrated and coordinated manner with the participation of all relevant actors.

- Advocate for the development of national frameworks for sustainable cities and strong communities ensuring sustainable production and consumption patterns at the local level with sectoral development plans.
- Encourage local governments, communities and families to work together in a participatory approach at local level, promoting civic engagement to stimulate a sense of belonging and ownership among all people and reaching to policies that prioritize safe inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces that are friendly to the families.
- Foster social cohesion, cultural expressions and political participation, and promote inclusion and safety in peaceful and diverse societies, where the needs of all inhabitant are met, recognizing the specific needs of families in vulnerable situations.
- Advocate for achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls by ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal rights in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision making.
- Promote for well-planned urbanization, including high productivity, competitiveness and innovation, by ensuring the creation of decent jobs and equal access for all to economic and productive resources and opportunities.
- Readdress the way local authorities plan, finance, develop, govern and manage cities and human settlements, recognizing sustainable urban development as essential to the achievement of sustainable development and prosperity for all.
- Bring all generations together through inclusive urban planning by promoting intergenerational housing arrangements and spaces where generations can interact, dialogue and cooperate.
- Raise families' awareness through continued information, education and communication campaigns using multiple channels including social media to promote for more sustainable practices of consumption since the family's daily practices, behaviour and lifestyles are transmitted from generations to generations.
- Encourage families to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability in the family daily life including practices on family urban agriculture.
- Promote for equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including affordable serviced land, housing, modern and renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, safe, nutritious and adequate food, waste disposal, sustainable mobility, health care and family planning, education, culture, information and communications technologies.
- Ensure that provided services at local level are responsive to the rights and needs of women, children and youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate, and to those in vulnerable situations.
- Promote community support projects that distribute food collected from restaurants (waste) to needy families.
- Encourage the generation and use of renewable and affordable energy as well as sustainable and efficient transport infrastructure and services, achieving the benefits of connectivity and reducing the financial, environmental and public

health costs of inefficient mobility, congestion, air pollution, urban hat island effects and noise.

- Promote age- and gender-responsive planning and investment for sustainable, safe and accessible urban mobility for all and resource-efficient transport systems for passengers and freight, effectively linking people, places, goods, services and economic opportunities.
- Advocate for protecting, conserving, restoring and promoting the city's ecosystem, water, natural habitats and biodiversity.
- Advocate for public private partnerships (PPP) and public CSOs partnership as an essential strategy for the implementation of national, regional and local level programs to achieve the SDGs.
- Encourage collaboration with the private sector and local authorities to develop and implement holistic water strategies that are socially equitable, sustainable and economically beneficial while protecting water ecosystems for current and future generations.
- Advocate for access to water and sanitation by addressing the impacts of company and supply chain operations on local water supplies and supporting stakeholders to deliver clean water and sanitation.
- Introduce the concepts of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals on the local level strategic and budgetary plans to implement the targeted actions as an effective response to family needs transforming cities and human settlements into prosperous, inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable and strong communities, LEAVING NO FAMILY BEHIND.